

REMARKS

Claims 1-15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) as being anticipated by Cisar et al. U.S. Patent 6,638,657. The present application was filed on December 4, 2003 and claims priority to U.S. provisional application 60/431,007 filed on December 4, 2002, whereas Cisar et al. U.S. 6,638,657 issued on October 28, 2003. Accordingly, the Cisar patent is not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) because it was not patented or published "more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 17-32, 34-62 and 64-76 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cisar et al. U.S. Patent 6,638,657; and Claims 16, 33 and 63 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cisar et al. U.S. Patent 6,638,657 in view of Wakamatsu U.S. 6,231,053. Applicant reasserts the facts stated above and concludes that Cisar et al. U.S. Patent 6,638,657 is not prior art to the present application under 35 U.S.C. Section 102(b) because it was not patented or published "more than one year prior to the date of the application for patent in the United States." Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

In the event there are additional charges in connection with the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the Deposit Account No. 50-0714/LYNN-0161 of the firm of the below-signed attorney in the amount of any necessary fee.

Respectfully submitted,

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